SALISBURY STATE UNIVERSITY

1994

SOFTBALL

QUOTING COACH PARKS

(On her coaching philosophy) — "With my background, I have a very competitive mindset. Our players have the ability to do the same things that athletes at higher levels do. I want to expose our players to those same techniques. There's no reason our players can't do it here. Defensively, we want the lead out 90 percent of the time. Offensively, I live and die with hitting. I love teaching hitting. When a player steps into the box, the other team should be afraid of her. We should have confident hitters."

(On recruiting) — "That's the biggest challenge in my first year. I want multi-dimensional players who run like crazy. I love speed and I'm looking to bring speed into our program. It opens up a lot of options, like the running slap, taking extra bases, etc. We want to be aggressive on the bases. You can never have too much speed on a softball team."

(On dual-sport opportunities) — "I really encourage that about Salisbury State. The Division III philosophy allows players to play more than one sport. It seems crazy to me to limit kids to one sport. Playing other sports develops more well-rounded athletes. All the coaches here stress the same concept and we work together well in this area. I push the other sports as hard as softball."

(On the importance of academics) — "Frankly, academics are crucial. That's the reason students are here. It has to be the top priority, but kids can commit fully to athletics and academics. The whole thing is based on effectively managing time. I'd like to incorporate a study hall at some point in the future, especially for freshmen, who might need a little extra guidance in adjusting to college."

(On conditioning) — "I'd like to have an off-season program for the players. I want to be able to give them specific drills that will get them ready for the start of preseason. As a coach, I want players in shape when preseason workouts begin. We want athletes who will be motivated to keep themselves in shape."

(On athletes' responsibilities) — "They must realize that they are responsible for their actions. They're adults now. What each player does also reflects on the team, the program, the department and the University. We don't want a tarnished image. They have to think. If a player commits to the team, she must commit fully. Be where you are supposed to be and do what you're supposed to be doing. Commitment, dedication and desire—those three words sum up my entire coaching philosophy."

HEAD COACH DEANNA PARKS

A former NCAA Division I standout at Kent State University, **Deanna Parks** begins her first season as head coach of the Sea Gull softball program. She comes to Salisbury from Penn State University, where she served as the assistant softball coach for one year. Prior to that, Parks was the assistant softball coach at her alma mater from 1988-91. Kent's 1990 squad advanced to the College World Series before finishing seventh in the nation.

Parks, a native of Bethel Park, PA, is a 1988 graduate of Kent State, where she lettered in softball and volleyball. She set or tied 15 KSU softball records during her career and earned first-team all-Mid American Conference honors as a senior.

She still owns the KSU career records for home runs (11) and walks (79), and ranks among the all-time leaders in RBI, total bases, doubles, triples and hits. Parks also earned all-Mideast Region first-team status in 1987 and all-Mid American Conference all-academic team recognition in 1988.

The versatile Parks also serves as head coach of the SSU volleyball program, and teaches classes in the physical education department. She is a member of the National Softball and the American Volleyball coaches associations.

ASSISTANT COACH TOM STITCHER

Now in his third season as a coach, **Dr. Tom Stitcher** is a valuable assistant with the Sea Gull program. He has also served as the athletic department's facilities coordinator for the last 16 years.

In addition to his duties at SSU, Stitcher has been a coach in the Wicomico County Recreation Department's Women's Summer League for the last nine years. His 1992 squad enjoyed unparalleled success, winning the championship of the ASA Class D, Central Atlantic Region, and advancing to the national tournament in Eugene, OR. Stitcher's squad placed ninth in the nation among the 62 squads competing at the tournament.

SSU JOINS CAPITAL ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Salisbury State University became the eighth member of the Capital Athletic Conference on June 10, 1993. SSU joins Catholic, Gallaudet, Goucher, Mary Washington, Marymount, St. Mary's and York. The Sea Gulls will be eligible for the CAC's women's softball championship beginning with the 1995 spring season.

1994 WOMEN'S SOFTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos	Year	Hometown	High School
1	Stacey Alexander	OF	Fr	Ellicott City, MD	Glenelg
2	Dianne Racine	OF	Sr	Elkton, MD	Elkton
3	Sandie Warren	1B	Sr	Greenbelt, MD	Eleanor Roosevelt
4	Shannon Cianelli	OF	Sr	Hagerstown, MD	Smithsburg
5	Laura Heath	OF	Jr	Salisbury, MD	Parkside
6	Melissa Manz	1B	So	Saylorsburg, PA	Pleasant Valley
7	Kara Burman	SS	Fr	Woodbury Hgts, NJ	Gateway
8	Jen Bowman	C	So	Greensboro, MD	North Caroline
9	Penny Lynch	IF	So	College Park, MD	High Point
10	Traci Coleman	P	Fr	Reisterstown, MD	Mt. DeSales
11	Marlene Oltman	IF	Jr	Annapolis, MD	Annapolis
12	Tracy Layfield	P	Fr	Pittsville, MD	Parkside
13	Heather McIntosh	OF	Jr	Hagerstown, MD	South Hagerstown
14	Nicole Urban	IF	So	Salisbury, MD	Parkside
15	Michelle Brosius	C/IF	Jr	College Park, MD	Eleanor Roosevelt
16	Becky Keller	C/IF	Fr	Salisbury, MD	Parkside
17	Kari Chichester	C/IF	Fr	Ellicott City, MD	Centennial
18	Sherri Schmitz	3B	Fr	Westminster, MD	Westminster
19	Michelle Bloxom	IF	Fr	Crisfield, MD	Crisfield
20	Susan Otto	1B	Fr	Olney, MD	Sherwood

SEASON OUTLOOK

New softball coach **Deanna Parks** begins her first season at Salisbury State University with just seven returnees from last year's 15-11 squad. Fortunately for Parks, four of 1993's top seven hitters are among those back as the foundation for the '94 team.

The infield features two returning starters in catcher **Jen Bowman** and first baseman **Sandie Warren**. Bowman was SSU's top hitter as a freshman last season, finishing with a .400 average and team highs in hits (32) and RBI (20). Her bat should once again provide plenty of punch for the middle of the lineup.

Warren hit .360 last season, finishing second behind Bowman in hits (27) and third in runs scored (17). She will also provide valuable defensive experience among the infielders.

Newcomers are likely to fill the other infield positions. **Nicole Urban**, a starter on the Sea Gull basketball team, is among three candidates at second base. Freshmen **Kari Chichester**, an all-state player from Ellicott City, MD, and **Michelle Bloxom** are the other contenders.

Kara Burman appears to be the top candidate for the shortstop position. The freshman displays soft hands, good range and enough quickness to fill the spot vacated by last year's MVP, Sandy Lawless. Junior **Marlene Oltman**, a good all-around athlete with a strong arm, will also help. The preseason has yet to yield a starter at third base. **Michelle Brosius, Becky Keller** and **Sherri Schmitz**, all newcomers, are the prime candidates. Brosius and Keller are versatile enough to also catch or play first base. Freshman **Susan Otto** can be used at first, while **Penny Lynch** may see action at first or second.

"There's definitely a lot of potential among the infielders," said Parks. "We just have to find the right mix. It's nice to have options. We're not locked in to one set infield."

Two of three starters are back in the outfield. Senior **Dianne Racine** returns in left and **Shannon Cianelli** is back in center. The speedy Racine hit .329 last year with a team-high 15 walks and 22 runs scored. Cianelli is a steadying defensive force who covers lots of ground in center and should improve on her .229 average from '93.

The leading contender for the starting role in right field is junior **Laura Heath**, last year's Most Improved award-winner. Heath has a strong arm and plenty of offensive power potential. She hit .321 last year and tied for the team lead in doubles with four.

Heather McIntosh is the top backup among the outfielders, and could see action in left, center or right. Junior **Melissa Manz** and freshman **Stacey Alexander** are also available.

With Sonja Akers' graduation, the Gulls are looking to replace the cornerstone of their pitching staff. Two freshmen will be counted on for immediate help.

Salisbury native **Tracy Layfield**, from Parkside High School, is the hard thrower of the staff. She has command of three pitches and can potentially overpower hitters. **Traci Coleman** should complement Layfield's power with an effective finesse style, mixing a good change with her fastball to keep hitters off balance. Racine, 2-0 in limited mound work last year, is also available for spot duty.

SEA GULL HONOR ROLL

MVPs
1980 Robin Tyler
1981 Sissy Natoli
1982 Carolyn Huston/ Pam Gonce
1983 Cindy Zile
1984 Donna Headlee
1985 Terri Timmons
1986 Dawn Taylor
1987 Jodi Yingling
1988 Tina DeJaco/ Jodi Yingling
1989 Terri Sharpless
1990 Kristy Keil
1991 Saundra Miller Sharrey Hammond
1992 Dianne Racine
1993 Sandy Lawless

Most Improved
1987 Laura Fisher
1988 Diane Bickford
1989 Kristy Keil
1990 Saundra Miller
1991 Yvette Hess
1992 Heather McIntosh
1993 Laura Heath

Coaches Award
(recognizing academic excellence)
1987 Kristy Keil
1988 Debbie Scott
1989 Karen Sipple
1990 Jane Cleveland
1991 Saundra Miller
1992 Sandy Lawless
1993 Sonja Akers

Morrison Award
(for dedication to the game)
1989 Terri Sharpless/ Karen Sipple
1990 Kristy Keil
1991 Amy Geppi
1992 Monica Diggs
1993 (not awarded)

QUICK FACTS

Location	Salisbury, Maryland
Founded	1925
Enrollment	5,956
President	Dr. Thomas E. Bellavance
Colors	Maroon and Gold
Nickname	Sea Gulls
Affiliation	NCAA Division III
Conference	Capital Athletic (CAC)
Home Field	Sea Gull Field
Surface	All-dirt (infield); Grass (outfield)
Dimensions	225 feet to all fields
Director of Athletics	Dr. Michael Vienna
Athletic Dept. Phone	(410) 548-3503
Athletics Dept. Fax	(410) 546-2639
Sports Information Director	G. Paul Ohanian
SID Phone	(410) 543-6016
SID Fax	(410) 543-6068
Head Coach	Deanna Parks
Alma Mater	Kent State ('88)
Record at School	0-0, first year
Career Record	Same
Coach's Phone	(410) 543-6352
Assistant Coach	Dr. Thomas Stitcher
1993 Record	15-11
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	7/10
Starters Returning/Lost	5/3 (non pitchers)

Top Returnees

Jen Bowman	Jr	C	.400 average, 32 hits, 20 RBI in '93
Dianne Racine	Sr	OF	.329 average, 25 hits, 22 runs in '93
Sandie Warren	Sr	1B	.360 average, 27 hits, 17 runs in '93

1994 SEA GULL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
MARCH			
16	Catholic	Salisbury, MD	2 p.m.
18, 19	Virginia Wesleyan Tournament	Norfolk, VA	TBA
24	Washington	Salisbury, MD	2 p.m.
26	Richard Stockton	Salisbury, MD	1 p.m.
27	William Paterson	Salisbury, MD	2 p.m.
APRIL			
9	Mary Washington	Fredericksburg, VA	2:30 p.m.
10	Chowan	Murfreesboro, NC	1 p.m.
12	Eastern Mennonite	Salisbury, MD	3 p.m.
16	Bridgewater	Bridgewater, VA	1 p.m.
21	Columbia Union	Takoma, MD	2 p.m.
23	Christopher Newport	Salisbury, MD	2 p.m.
26	Wesley	Dover, DE	2 p.m.
30	Cabrini	Salisbury, MD	1 p.m.
MAY			
1	Virginia Wesleyan	Salisbury, MD	2 p.m.
3	Montclair State	Upper Montclair, NJ	3 p.m.

SALISBURY STATE UNIVERSITY

A Reputation for Excellence

"Best Buy" in Public Education. "Smiles abound as the . . . school's endowment and reputation soar," said *The Baltimore Sun* in a front page story. *Money* magazine ranked SSU a national "best buy" in public education.

Applications triple. For 15 straight years the number of applications here has increased, countering national trends. This fall the campus received over 4,000 applications for 650 openings.

SATs up nearly 200 points. In the same time period, SAT scores rose to among the highest in Maryland's public university system. The average 1993 freshman at SSU has well over 1000 on the SATs and a better than B average in high school.

$45 million investment in buildings and grounds. Splendid new architecture and a beautifully landscaped campus in the heart of Maryland's Eastern Shore have made us one of the Mid-Atlantic's most attractive universities.

Highest endowed four-year public comprehensive university in Maryland. SSU's $10 million plus endowment means more scholarships, student travel and research funds, and more visiting scholars and artists' programs. The University has been listed in an exclusive group of 300 schools with the largest endowments for their size.